

## STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and City Council Date: August 11, 2009

From: Roderick Simmons, Director Prepared by: Debbie Ivester  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Assistant Director

Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager

Subject: Veterans Memorial and Memorial Stadium

Summary Statement: Overview of the capital improvements completed to date on the Veterans Memorial and Memorial Stadium, and an outline of unfunded improvements and enhancements to be completed as full funding becomes available.

Review: In recent years, work has occurred as funds have been available to make improvements at Memorial Stadium and to restore and enhance the Veterans Memorial located at the stadium.

The improvements completed to date at Memorial Stadium include synthetic turf on sports field, field lights and playground. Features in the stadium renovation design that remain unfunded include concrete bleachers, press box, practice field, basketball court, fitness trail, picnic pavilion, ticket booth, entrance wall and sign, entrance columns and fencing, gates and fencing, sidewalks, landscaping and parking lots.

The attached Memorial Stadium table represents the unfunded improvements and the priority in which to complete each feature as full funding becomes available. Prioritization is based on 1) health, safety and welfare of customers when using the park, 2) highest and best function of park features for majority of park customers, and 3) enhances the customers experience when using the park. The cost for Memorial Stadium improvements is based on the cost estimate produced by Aiken Cost Consultants in September 2007.

The improvements completed to date at the Veterans Memorial include brick arch restoration, court yard, seating area, World War I and II wall, brick columns and scatter garden, flag poles, fencing and landscaping. Enhancements in the Veterans Memorial design that remain unfunded include scatter garden bronze plaques, war bronze plaques, brick walls, western North Carolina counties bronze plaques, benches, electric conduit, lights and irrigation.

The attached Veterans Memorial table represents the unfunded enhancements. No priority is designated to the enhancements which can occur in any order as full funding becomes available. The cost for the Veterans Memorial enhancements is based on general cost observation by City staff in June 2009.

The estimated cost for both Memorial Stadium and the Veterans Memorial does not include general contractor overhead. Cost is subject to change due to the actual final design of certain features, contingency, inflation and the economy at the time the work actually occurs.

Private fundraising efforts have been identified to support Memorial Stadium and Veterans Memorial enhancements included in the design but remain unfunded. As funding and fundraising efforts develop, the Memorial Stadium and Veterans Memorial list will be used as a guide and reference for future funding and fundraising activities.

At its regular meeting on July 13, 2009, the Recreation Advisory Board reviewed the priority of unfunded improvements at Memorial Stadium, and the unfunded enhancements at the Veterans Memorial. The board unanimously supports the proposal and the recommendation to City Council to support it as well.

This action complies with the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts & Greenway Master Plan in that it makes use of diverse funding sources for successful implementation in the delivery of parks, recreation and cultural art services.

Pros:

- Provide a prioritized list of improvements for Memorial Stadium, and enhancements for the Veterans Memorial as full funding becomes available
- Serve as a guide and reference list for future funding and fundraising activities

Cons:

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Future funds will increase the City of Asheville capital improvement budget in the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department. There will be an increase in park maintenance resources as additional features and enhancements are added to the facility.

Recommendation: Staff recommends City Council to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve 1) priority of unfunded improvements at Memorial Stadium, and 2) the unfunded enhancements at the Veterans Memorial.

Attachment: 1) Memorial Stadium Prioritized Improvements Table and Veterans Memorial Enhancement Table

## **Memorial Stadium**

Memorial Stadium Improvements Complete: Synthetic turf on sports field, field lights, playground

### Priority of Memorial Stadium Unfunded Improvements

<b>Priority 1</b>	
Concrete Bleachers Restoration	\$ 185,700
Press Box	251,000
South Parking Lot	95,600
North Parking Lot	120,300
Sidewalks	22,100
Gates and Fencing	51,200
<b>Priority 2</b>	
Basketball Court	8,500
Fitness Trail	42,900
Picnic Pavilion	28,300
Landscaping	50,000
<b>Priority 3</b>	
Practice Field	18,100
Ticket Booth	108,000
Entrance Wall and Sign	17,800
Entrance Columns and Fencing	94,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,093,900</b>

Cost based on the cost estimate produced by Aiken Cost Consultants in September 2007

## **Veterans Memorial**

Veterans Memorial Features Complete: Brick arch restoration, court yard, seating area, World War I and II wall, brick columns and scatter garden, flag poles, fencing and landscaping

### Veterans Memorial Unfunded Enhancements

2 War Bronze Plaques	\$ 5,500
17 Western NC County Bronze Plaques	29,000
5 War Bronze Plaques and Brick Walls	22,500
Garden Irrigation	2,500
3 Scatter Garden Bronze Plaques	8,250
Electric Conduit and Lights	2,500
2 Benches	4,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 74,250</b>

Cost based on general cost observation by City staff in June 2009